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Rural District Council

OF

ST. THOMAS



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
and the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year
1961

Public Health Department,
31, Southernhay East,
EXETER.

July, 1962.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ST. THOMAS

Tel. No. EXETER 54254/5/6

Public Health Department,
31 Southernhay East,
EXETER.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you this Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1961. The report consists of four sections viz., (1) Report of Medical Officer of Health, (2) Report of Chief Public Health Inspector, (3) Report of Engineer and (4) Report of the Housing Officer.

The Report of the Engineer will be presented by him to the appropriate committee separately but will be embodied in this report for submission to the various Ministries concerned.

Regarding the statistics for the area, the resident population as estimated by the Registrar General has increased from 34,590 in 1960 to 35,600 in 1961. During the year there were 541 live births representing a crude birth rate of 15.2 and standardised rate of 17.5, practically the same as that for England and Wales (17.4).

The deaths during the year numbered 466 which represents a corrected death rate of 13.1 and a standardised rate of 10.7, somewhat lower than the rate for England and Wales (12.0).

It is gratifying to note the very low infant mortality during the year. Five babies under the age of 1 year died in 1961 compared with 9 in the previous year and the infant mortality rate fell from 16.6 in 1960 to 9.2 in 1961. This rate compares most favourably with the rate for England and Wales (21.4) the latter, in fact, is the lowest national rate so far recorded.

As regards infectious diseases, of the 399 cases notified 291 were measles and 51 whooping cough. I am pleased to report that no cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or typhoid fever were recorded.

During 1961 the East-Regional Water Scheme was brought into operation. This is a large scheme costing nearly £600,000 and integrates the supply in the whole of the Eastern part of the District. The water is obtained from the Exmouth U.D.C. boreholes at Dotton near Newton Poppleford and 8 small sources have been closed down. The scheme will not be finally completed until the end of 1962 by which time nine reservoirs or water towers will have been constructed, two boosters installed and over 100 miles of mains laid. All bacteriological samples of water from the Council's main supplies have proved satisfactory.

I am pleased to report that during the year work commenced on the Otter Valley Sewerage Scheme serving the parishes of East Budleigh, Otterton, Harpford, and is expected to be completed in 1963.

Finally, I should like to thank all members of the Council and the staff for their help and co-operation shown to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L. G. Anderson,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

DR. L. G. ANDERSON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

MR. K. C. BENHAM, Cert. S.I.B., F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

Mr. J. H. RICHARDS, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

Mr. G. C. HOPKINS, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. R. PICKFORD, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. G. W. MATHEWS, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I. (left 24.9.61)

Clerical Staff

Mr. B. J. HODGON (left 31.10.61)

Miss H. M. ANDREWS

Mrs. R. D. BROWN

Mr. N. SPIER (transferred to Surveyor's Dept.
1.3.61)

Miss E. WESTERN (transferred to Surveyor's Dept.
1.3.61)

Miss R. ADAMS (commenced 1.12.61)

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres)	114,603
Resident Population Mid-Year 1961 (as estimated by the Registrar General) ..	35,600
Rateable Hereditaments in the District (as at 1st April, 1961)	11,128
Domestic Dwellings only	9,885
Rateable value as at the 1st April, 1961 ..	£392,378
Product of a penny rate: 1961/62	£1669. 5s. 9d.
1962/63	£1666. 0s. 0d.

2. VITAL STATISTICS:

(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	264	248	512
Illegitimate	10	20	30
TOTAL	274	268	542

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 15.2

Standardised live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident
population 17.5

*Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population
England & Wales 17.4

(b) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	Nil	1	1
TOTAL	4	5	9

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 16.3

*Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births
England & Wales 18.7

(c) Deaths

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
243	223	466

Corrected death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .. 13.1

Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 10.7

Death rate per 1,000 civilian population, England & Wales .. 12.0

Deaths from maternal causes NIL

*Provisional figures, as estimated at 30th June, 1961.

(d) Infant Mortality

(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	3	2	5

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 9.2
 Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births, England & Wales .. 21.4

3. LIVE BIRTH RATE

(Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population)

During 1961, 274 male and 268 female (total 542) babies were born. Compared with the previous year the total births showed a decrease of 1. The standardised rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 18.1, which was higher than that for England and Wales as a whole (17.4).

The total number of live births registered in England and Wales during 1961 was 804,120* which was 21,447 more than the total for 1960 and represents a live birth rate per 1,000 population of 17.4*.

The live birth rates for St. Thomas R.D. and England and Wales during the last 10 years were as follows:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
St. Thomas R.D.	14.0	14.02	14.3	14.4	13.4	14.8	15.1	15.0	15.7	15.7
Standardised	15.8	17.7	16.3	16.4	15.3	17.8	18.1	18.0	18.8	17.5
England & Wales	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4

4. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE

(Rate per 1,000 total live births).

Of the 542 children born during 1961, 30 were illegitimate, i.e. 10 more than in the previous year. The rate per 1,000 total live births was 55.3.

The illegitimate birth rates during the last 10 years were as follows:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
St. Thomas R.D.	45.4	58.2	36.9	51.5	40.6	58.8	33.4	43.1	36.8	55.3

*Provisional figures

5. STILL BIRTHS:

- 5 -

(Rate per 1,000 total live and still births).

The number of still births which occurred during 1961, viz. 9, was 1 less than in the previous year, and the still birth rate of 16.3 was below that for England and Wales as a whole (18.7). The table below shows the still birth rate for the last 10 years:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
St. Thomas R.D.	24.6	26.2	14.9	21.01	28.5	21.8	23.03	13.5	18.0	16.3
England & Wales	22.7	22.5	24.5	23.1	23.0	22.4	21.6	20.7	19.7	18.7

6. DEATHS:

(a) During 1961, 466 persons normally resident in the Rural District died (243 males, 223 females) which represents a corrected death rate of 13.1, but when allowance for age and sex distribution has been made represents a "standardised" death rate of 10.7. This rate is lower than that for 1960 and is lower than that for England and Wales as a whole (12.0). The following table shows the corrected and standardised death rates for the St. Thomas R.D. for the last 10 years as compared with the death rates for England and Wales:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Corrected	10.4	14.9	15.4	15.04	15.5	13.9	12.4	13.05	13.9	13.1
Standardised	8.7	12.5	12.7	12.6	10.2	10.1	9.3	9.8	10.8	10.7
England & Wales	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0

(b) Age at Death

The average age at death during 1961 was 70.27 and the table shows the average age at death during the last 10 years:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Males	66.8	66.4	65.2	68.1	69.1	66.85	66.19	68.7	67.9	66.8
Females	69.2	67.7	70.01	70.1	71.5	70.03	73.41	72.9	71.4	74.1
Both sexes	67.9	67.05	67.6	69.1	70.3	68.4	69.6	70.9	69.7	70.27
*England M and Wales	65.84	67.06	67.3	67.58	67.52	67.76	67.71	67.85	68.0	
F	70.88	72.35	72.44	73.05	72.99	73.3	73.29	73.53	73.7	

*Expectation of Life from Provisional Statistics for England and Wales for 1961.

It may be noted that 60 years ago in 1901 the expectation of life for a male child was 48.53 years and a female child 52.38 years.

(c) Causes of Death

The following table shows the causes of death (data supplied by the Registrar General).

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	3	3	6
Other forms	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
Cancer:			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	1	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	22	19	41
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	-	2
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	33	54
Coronary disease (angina)	37	38	75
Hypertension with heart disease	3	6	9
Other heart disease	44	50	94
Other circulatory disease	12	12	24
Influenza	3	-	3
Pneumonia	22	11	33
Bronchitis	16	5	21
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	3	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	17	41
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	2	10	12
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
All causes	243	223	466

The most prevalent cause of death during 1961 was that of heart disease (178 cases 38.2% total deaths). Cancer was the cause in 65 cases (13.9% total deaths), and intra-cranial vascular lesions such as cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis was responsible for 54 deaths (11.6% total deaths).

(d) Deaths due to Road Accidents

Male	14	Peripheral circulatory failure due to laceration of the brain caused by blow on the head as a result of an accident between pedal cycle and car.
Male	41	Pneumonia. Fractures of ribs and pneumothorax. Complete fracture of the spine with paraplegia and fracture of left femur. Motor cycle / saloon car.

(e) Deaths due to other accidents

Female	74	Pulmonary embolism. Femoral venous thrombosis. Fractured neck of left femur. Generalised athero sclerosis. Death due to misadventure.
Female	80	Broncho pneumonia. Fracture of right femur. Death due to misadventure.
Female	58	Multiple injuries sustained when struck by a train.
Female	89	Broncho pneumonia. Fracture of the left femur. Death due to misadventure.
Female	70	Broncho pneumonia. Fracture of the left femur. Death due to misadventure.
Male	82	Broncho pneumonia. Fracture of the left femur. Death due to misadventure.
Male	92	Uraemia. Pyonephrosis. Urinary obstruction due to enlarged prostate. Fracture of the right femur. Death due to misadventure.
Female	88	Acute bilateral broncho-pneumonia. Fracture of the right femur due to fall in bedroom. Generalised atherosclerosis. Death due to Misadventure.
Female	83	Acute bronchial pneumonia. Fracture of femur as a result of falling downstairs. Death due to misadventure.
Female	76	Lobar pneumonia. Fracture of the right femur in hospital. Athero sclerosis dimension. Death due to misadventure.
Female	84	Pulmonary oedema. Generalised athero-sclerosis. Fracture of the left femur. Death due to misadventure.
Female	70	Pulmonary embolism. Fracture of the neck of the left femur caused by fall on pavement. Death due to misadventure.

(f) Deaths due to Suicide

Female	35	Acute salicylate poisoning. Deceased took her own life while the balance of her mind was disturbed.
Male	80	Carbon monoxide poisoning due to inhalation of coal gas. Deceased killed himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

(h) The following table shows the incidence of deaths at various age groups (from returns supplied by the local Registrars of Births and Deaths).

Age Groups	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
Under 1 year	3	2	5	1.07
1 and under 2 years	1	-	1	.21
2+	1	-	1	.21
5+	-	-	-	-
10+	3	1	4	.86
20+	4	-	4	.86
30+	4	4	8	1.71
40+	8	8	16	3.4
50+	31	15	46	9.9
60+	62	31	93	19.9
70+	89	71	160	34.3
80+	33	73	106	22.7
90+	4	18	22	4.7
100+	-	-	-	-
All ages	243	223	466	

7. INFANT MORTALITY

5 infants, 3 males and 2 females, under the age of 1 year died during 1961. This represents an infant mortality rate of 9.2 which is lower than that for England and Wales (21.4). The causes of death of these infants were as follows:-

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
M	1 week	1(a) Haemorrhagic pneumonia (b) Cold Syndrome of the neonate
M	1 day	1(a) Atelectasis (b) Immaturity
M	36 hours	1(a) Atelectasis (b) Prematurity
F	2 weeks	1(a) Meningo myelocoele
F	1 day	1(a) Hyaline membrane disease (b) Prematurity

8. CANCER

The number of deaths from Cancer decreased from 86 in 1960 to 65 in 1961, and in relation to the total number of deaths the rate per cent decreased from 17.9 in 1960 to 13.9 in 1961.

The parts of the body affected are given in the following table:-

	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	4	3	7
Lung and Bronchus	11	1	12
Breast	-	2	2
Uterus	-	3	3
All other sites	22	19	41
Total	37	28	65

The incidence of death from Cancer during the last ten years is as follows:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Males	30	34	41	32	33	39	27	38	39	37
Females	33	31	38	32	37	36	28	43	47	28
Both sexes	63	65	79	64	70	75	55	81	86	65
Rate per 1,000 Resident Population	1.97	2.04	2.45	1.9	2.11	2.25	1.63	2.37	2.43	1.83

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

During 1961, 399 cases of notifiable diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) were notified, which is 274 less than in the previous year.

(a) Measles

291 cases of Measles occurred during the year, compared with 539 in 1960.

The seasonal incidence of measles in the St. Thomas Rural District and England and Wales as a whole was as follows:-

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
St. Thomas	13	10	8	7	58	27	15	29	26	77	7	14
	31			92			70			98		
England & Wales	352,241			319,968			76,492			14,764		

(b) Whooping Cough

During 1961, 51 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, as compared with 28 in the previous year.

(c) Scarlet Fever

7 cases occurred during 1961, as compared with 38 cases in 1960. The disease was of a mild type, and no cases were admitted to hospital.

(d) Diphtheria

For the 11th consecutive year, there has been no cases of Diphtheria notified.

(e) Poliomyelitis

Again no cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

(f) Tabular Statements of Infectious Diseases

The incidence during 1961 of the various notifiable infectious diseases is tabulated hereunder:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Institutional cases included in Col. 2	Cases admitted to hospital
Measles	291	9	-
Whooping Cough	51	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-
Dysentery	15	-	-
Pneumonia	18	-	1
Food Poisoning	7	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Paratyphoid (B)	2	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-
Gastro-Enteritis	5	-	1
TOTAL	399	9	2

(g) The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases grouped according to age:-

Disease	Under 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Total
Measles	5	25	32	42	27	128	21	4	5	-	2	-	291
Whooping Cough	2	1	3	4	5	26	9	-	1	-	-	-	51
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	7
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	9	2	1	-	2	-	-	15
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	2	5	4	18
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	7
Gastro-Enteritis	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Paratyphoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	10	27	38	48	33	170	34	7	15	5	8	4	399

(h) The following table shows the incidence (numbers notified) of various infectious diseases during the last ten years:-

Disease	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Measles	25	644	62	283	424	67	302	180	539	291
Whooping Cough	48	184	134	46	107	68	53	19	28	51
Scarlet Fever	29	14	19	15	9	32	17	39	38	7
Dysentery	43	15	3	1	2	14	1	1	44	15
Pneumonia	30	28	31	48	21	30	33	28	12	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	3	1	2	1	3	-	2	-	1
Erysipelas	7	4	-	4	2	5	-	1	2	-
Food Poisoning	1	4	3	9	8	5	3	4	8	7
Polio-myelitis	-	5	1	10	1	29	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastro-Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Para-typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2
TOTAL	187	901	255	418	575	253	418	275	673	399

10. TUBERCULOSIS:

During 1961, 10 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified (5 males and 5 females). The majority (8) of these cases were clinically tuberculosis of the lungs, and the remainder (2) tuberculosis of other parts of the body.

On receipt of a notification of Tuberculosis the housing conditions, milk supply etc., are investigated in collaboration with the Chest Physician, and where necessary the appropriate recommendations are made to the Housing Committee.

The age distribution of new cases, localisation of the disease and deaths from Tuberculosis during 1961 were as follows:-

Age Period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All ages	4	4	1	1	-	-	-	-
	8		2		-		-	
	10				Nil			

The incidence of all cases of Tuberculosis brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1952 - 1961 (including inward transfers) is given in the following table:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
PULMONARY M	14	17	14	19	21	20	21	14	11	9
PULMONARY F	17	11	19	9	14	15	10	6	8	2
NON-PULMONARY M	4	1	-	1	2	4	3	3	2	1
NON-PULMONARY F	4	6	10	5	-	1	3	3	1	2
TOTAL	39	35	43	34	37	40	37	26	22	14

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis during 1961 per 1,000 estimated resident population was 0.28, but no deaths occurred from these new cases during the year. It should be remembered, however, that there are two large mental hospitals in the area, and that of the 10 Tuberculosis notified during the year, 2 were notified from these institutions, but no deaths occurred amongst institutional cases.

11. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT:

The Health Services provided in the District are briefly set out below: -

(a) HOSPITAL

(i) General

The Rural District is well served by the following hospitals:-

1. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Southernhay East, Exeter.
(Tel. No. 59261) 322 beds.
2. Redhills Hospital, St. Thomas, Exeter.
(Tel. No. 76481) 178 beds (including 27 part III)
3. Exeter City Hospital, Heavitree Road, Exeter.
(Tel. No. 77351) 265 beds.
4. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Buckerell Bore, Exeter.
(Tel. No. 54217) 115 beds.
5. West of England Eye Infirmary, Dagdalen Street, Exeter.
(Tel. No. 73183) 62 beds.
6. Exmouth Cottage Hospital, Claremont Grove, Exmouth.
(Tel. No. 4381) 41 beds.
7. Budleigh Salterton Cottage Hospital.
(Tel. No. 20) 21 beds.

The plastic surgery centre for Devon is held at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital on the 2nd Thursday in alternate months from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Mr. Fitz-Gibbon and Mr. Bodenham of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board attend.

(ii) Maternity

1. Redhills Hospital, St. Thomas, Exeter. - 10 beds.
2. Exeter City Hospital (approximately 41 beds), 15 cots.
3. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital for complicated or difficult cases.

(iii) Isolation

Cases of Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter (Tel. No. Exeter 67158) as in previous years. I should like to express my sincere appreciation for the ready help and co-operation given at all times by Dr. R. P. Boyd, the Resident Physician, and the Staff of the Hospital.

(iv) Smallpox

A smallpox hospital of 23 beds at Upton Pyne administered by the Regional Hospital Board is available in case of need (Tel. No. Stoke Canon 207).

So far as the Rural District of St. Thomas is concerned, the consultants who may be called upon to assist in the diagnosis of smallpox are as follows:-

(1) East Devon

Dr. E. J. G. Wallace, Health Centre, Westham Road, Weymouth, Dorset.
(Tel. No. Weymouth 1645 and 16, home 1513)

(2) Cornwall & Devon to the River Exe

Dr. E. F. Johnstone, Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth.
(Tel. No. Plymouth 51437, home 73896)

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES:

Bacteriological and serological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter, their address being Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter (Tel. No. Exeter 54959) under the direction of Dr. B. Moore, whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

(c) VENEREAL DISEASE:

Under the present scheme, free advice and treatment are available to all persons at the following centre:-

<u>EXETER</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
ROYAL DEVON & EXETER HOSPITAL	Mon. 7 - 8 p.m. Fri. 2 - 3 p.m.	Mon. 6 - 7 p.m. Fri. 3 - 4 p.m.

(d) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN:

Under the Devon County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, Infant Welfare Centres were held during the year at the following centres:-

- (i) The Primary School, Alphington, on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, from 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., attended by Dr. Archer.
- (ii) Broadclyst - Assembly Hall, County Primary School, on 1st and 3rd Thursday in each month from 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., attended by Dr. Archer.
- (iii) The Memorial Hall, Topsham, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from from 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. attended by Dr. Archer.
- (iv) The America Hall, Pinhoe, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Dr. Archer attends the 1st Tuesday of each month.

During 1961 the following attendances were made:-

Parish	Infants*		1 - 5 years*	
Alphington	205	19	171	11
Broadclyst	162	38	122	35
Topsham	579	57	226	2
Pinhoe	459	74	254	65

*Attendances for the first time.

Report of K. C. Benham, F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

The year under review could well be entitled "The Year of Change," change of administrative duties and change of staff, for under the Council's scheme or re-organisation, Planning, Building Byelaws administration and building inspection were no longer the responsibility of this department. As from 1st March this work was undertaken by the newly formed Surveyor's Department. The maintenance of Council houses having similarly passed over to that department in October 1960, and this department became, for the first time in the history of the Council, solely responsible for Public Health work.

It was some time before we really felt the loss because by force of habit, architects, builders and ratepayers continued to contact the department as they had become accustomed over the years.

Due to this change a member of the inspectorate staff (Mr. G. W. Mathews) had to seek a fresh appointment, he was fortunately successful and left at the end of September. We were extremely sorry, however, to lose a colleague who was efficient and well liked under such circumstances, because he had only been with us for under 3 years.

The chief clerk (Mr. B. J. Hodgon) took up an appointment with another local authority in October after having served the Council loyally for over 25 years. We wish both of these colleagues well in their new spheres. A new member of the staff (Miss R. Adams) was appointed in December as replacement for Mr. Hodgon.

Two other clerical officers who dealt principally with Planning were transferred to the new department.

The inspection of meat and slaughtering was maintained at 100% but not without considerable difficulty, especially at times of annual holidays and bank holidays. In order to maintain this efficient service some other sections of work had to suffer in comparison.

The provision of new housing accommodation for families displaced by orders under the Housing Act did not keep pace with the demand and still many houses remain occupied long after those orders become operative, in fact, so much so, that it appears the problem will remain with us for some years to come.

The main sewerage question will be considerably relieved when the Otter Valley Sewerage Scheme, now proceeding, is completed and the Clyst Valley Scheme is under way and the existence of sewers in the villages served, will no doubt encourage more owners to take advantages of improvement grants to modernise their houses.

1. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

In October the constructional regulations came into force which meant that as from 1st October, 1961, the date fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, all the slaughterhouses in the district had to comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958. All the seven premises complied with these requirements and it was not necessary to close any slaughterhouse.

To comply with these regulations considerable alterations were carried out to five of the seven licensed premises; one butcher built new premises and another added a large addition. The work has been satisfactorily carried out except that the walls and floors in one slaughterhouse were unsatisfactory and the occupier was still endeavouring to get his builder to remedy the bad workmanship at the end of the year. The greatest difficulty has been experienced in obtaining adequate artificial lighting to comply with the 50ft candles required by the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations where meat inspection is carried out.

A hospital in the district, which is Crown property, has a slaughterhouse for its own use and is therefore exempt from having a licence. The premises do not comply with the constructional regulations and the Council are endeavouring to get the Management Committee to carry out the necessary work.

The Management Committee requested this Council to arrange for the inspection of the meat and this was commenced in June and entails two visits per week.

2. MEAT INSPECTION

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 31,632, an increase of 1,041 over 1960. The number of cows slaughtered again showed a decrease (1,041) and it is interesting to note that since 1959 the number has fallen by 1,307, but during the same period the heifers and steers slaughtered has increased by 1,740. The number of pigs killed also shows an increase (421). A 100% inspection of meat has been maintained and has necessitated 1,248 visits to slaughterhouses, an increase of 164 over last year. I would point out that over 500 of these visits were half-day ones at Messrs. Eastmans slaughterhouse.

The inspection of all animals killed in the district constitutes a considerable portion of the work of the department and places a great strain on the staff, particularly at holiday time.

A. Animals slaughtered and inspected during 1961 with comparative figures for 1960:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Total number killed:						
1961	4453	830	573	13826	11990	31632
1960	2890	1871	553	13748	11529	30591
Number killed at 1961	3717	826	508	11183	10907	27141
Eastmans only: 1960	2269	1771	480	11228	10417	26165
Number inspected: 1961	4453	830	573	13826	11950	31632
1960	2890	1871	553	13748	11529	30591

The number of beef carcasses found to have a part or parts affected with Tuberculosis was 15, an increase of 3 over the previous year and of this number only one was a cow. This is the second consecutive year that no carcasses of beef or veal were affected with generalised Tuberculosis and in 1953 only one cow carcass was condemned for that reason. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are notified of all cases in which Tuberculosis is found in bovines.

No pig carcasses were found to be affected with generalised Tuberculosis as against two for 1960. A total of 459 pigs, 3.8%, were found affected with localised Tuberculosis, mainly in the head.

B. Percentage of animals infected with Tuberculosis since 1956:-

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Cattle other than Cows.	5.01	3.9	2.0	0.48	0.14	0.31
Cows	16.90	15.2	6.5	1.4	0.42	0.13
Calves	0.16	0.28	0.1	NIL	NIL	NIL
Pigs	7.70	6.80	5.6	4.3	4.7	3.8

The total number of whole carcasses found to be unfit for human consumption was 61, a decrease of 20 over the previous year and the reasons warranting condemnation are shown in table C. It is pleasing to note that it was not necessary to condemn any beef carcass this year.

Of the 5,283 cattle inspected 98 were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, but only in four cases were the cysts viable. This is 54 more than last year and the percentage affected is doubled from 0.9% to 1.8%. It is interesting to note that only 7 cases occurred in cows.

C. Details of Animals condemned and destroyed:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	3	24	34
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	2644	748	9	2321	2055
Percentage of the number affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	59.3%	90.1%	2.09%	16.2%	17.4%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	1	-	-	459
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis	0.31%	0.13%	-	-	3.8%

D. Causes for condemnation of whole carcasses:-

Disease	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Diffuse Pleurisy & Peritonitis	-	-	-	14
Septic Peritonitis	-	-	-	-
Septic Pleurisy	-	1	2	11
Septicaemia	-	-	1	-
Septic Mastitis	-	-	2	-
Toxaemia	-	-	5	1
Fever	-	-	2	2
Immaturity	-	-	2	-
Generalised Oedema	-	-	4	-
Decomposition - Generalised	-	-	-	2
Pathological Emaciation	-	-	3	-
Malignant Tumours	-	-	1	1
Uraemia	-	-	-	1
Generalised Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Acute Swine Erysipelas	-	-	-	1
Acute Septic Pneumonia	-	-	-	1
Enteritis - Septic	-	1	-	-
Pyæmia	-	1	-	-
Extensive Bruising	-	-	2	-
TOTAL	-	3	24	34

E. Analysis of carcasses and organs condemned and destroyed:-

Part Condemned	Cattle and Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcasses	-	3	24	34
Heads and Tongues	189	-	18	453
Lungs	281	1	58	839
Livers	1274	2	2011	770
Part Livers	1726	2	1	4
Kidneys	49	5	42	160
Hearts	119	-	9	63
Flanks	4	-	22	3
Mesentery	18	-	-	9
Spleens	35	-	-	1
Forequarters	1	-	-	8
Intestines	30	-	-	25
Skirts	159	-	-	-
Trimnings	4	-	-	1
Butt and Rump	1	-	-	-
Plucks	-	1	113	227
Neck and Breast	1	-	15	-
Hindknuckles	-	-	7	12
Foreknuckles	-	-	7	8
Loins	-	-	1	1
Legs	2	-	8	11
Shoulders	-	-	1	6
Tail Pieces	1	-	-	-
Trotters	-	-	-	1
Lard	-	-	-	11
Briskets	3	-	1	2
Ribs	1	-	1	-
Skin	-	-	-	2
Suet	-	-	2	5
Udders	2	-	-	-
Stomachs	-	-	1	6

3. OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

The following table shows the amount of other food stuff condemned.

Foodstuffs condemned	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs	Oz
Tins: 117	4	1	7	10
Bacon:	7	2	9	-

We were called in by a hospital in the district to examine 140 head of poultry and it was found that their livers were affected with

fatty infiltration, but the carcasses were quite normal. Apparently the poultry had been battery fed.

4. INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

The following table shows the number of food premises and the visits made. It is pleasing to note that it has been possible to considerably increase the number of visits over last year. The food premises are, generally speaking, well maintained and satisfactory, perhaps because they are family concerns and only a limited number employ staff.

Premises	No. in District	No. of inspections made
Grocers, greengrocers and general stores	113	81
Bakehouses	13	22
Butchers' Shops	15	80
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages etc.	30	35
Slaughterhouses	8	1248
Fish Shops (Wet and Dried Fish)	5	2
Canteens (School and Works)	25	6
Restaurants, Cafes and Hotels	49	42
Public Houses	76	18
Food Preparation Rooms	11	42
Confectioners	11	5

A restaurant and a bakehouse were found to be very unsatisfactory and after a strong warning, improvements were carried out.

The following shows the improvements carried out to food premises as a result of action by this department.

1. General Stores - Washing facilities provided.
2. General Stores - Food rooms re-decorated.
3. Butchers' Shop - Food preparing room re-decorated and cleansed.
4. Butchers' Shop - New W.C. provided and washing facilities improved.
5. Bakehouse - Washing facilities provided, premises cleansed and re-decorated.
6. Cafe - Flush W.C.'s provided and a proper drainage system installed.
7. Cafe - Premises cleansed and re-decorated.
8. Hotel - Washing facilities provided.
9. Food preserving premises - Additional sanitary accommodation and washing facilities provided.

5. ICE - CREAM

During the year 11 new premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream, bringing the total to 154. Only two of these manufacture their own, the remainder buy from manufacturers and mainly sell pre-packed ice-cream.

Of the 59 samples taken 49 were Grade I, 8 Grade 2, 1 Grade 3 and 1 Grade 4. This is the first year for some time where samples have been below Grade 2, but of the two which were unsatisfactory, subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

One mobile van selling ice-cream was found not to comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, and the matter was taken up with the local authority in whose area the registered premises were situated.

6. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The position regarding the sale of milk in this district is the same as reported last year, and no additional distributors were registered during the year thus the total remains at 38.

Number of milk distributors in the District (of which 10 have premises outside the District)	38
Number of dairies in the District	20
Number of inspections made	20
Number of producer/retailers	178

During the year two retail producers in the same parish replaced bottles by non-returnable cartons mainly due to the difficulty in cleansing their bottles. From the public health standpoint cartons have many advantages, although it does mean an increase in the amount of refuse collected.

7. HOUSING

During the year 66 houses were reported to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and were dealt with as shown in the following table, together with those deferred from last year.

Houses reported as being unfit	66
Demolition Orders made	32
Closing Orders made	11
Undertakings accepted.. ..	3
Number deferred	20
No action taken	6
Awaiting consideration by Committee ..	5
Houses demolished	6
Houses repaired and made fit as a result of:	
a) formal action	4
b) informal action and voluntary ..	99
Number of visits to houses	451
Re-inspections	807

The following are the 47 houses on which action was taken:-

Demolition Orders:

Occupied

31/12/61

1 Town Barton Cottages, Doddiscoombsleigh.	Yes
2 Town Barton Cottages, Doddiscoombsleigh.	Yes
Cleave Bungalow, Whitestone.	No
1 Westwood Cottages, Alphington.	Yes
2 Westwood Cottages, Alphington.	Yes
4 New Buildings, Bridford.	No
Hazeldene, Otterton.	No
Sunny Cottage, Otterton.	No
Longwood Bungalow, Whitestone.	No
1 Hill Park, Christow.	Yes
2 Hill Park, Christow.	No
3 Hill Park, Christow.	No
1 Court View, Christow.	Yes
2 Court View, Christow.	Yes
Well Cottage, Knowle, East Budleigh.	No
Old School House, Knowle, East Budleigh.	Yes
Old School Cottage, Knowle, East Budleigh.	Yes
Ivy Cottage, Knowle, East Budleigh.	No
Paradise Cottage, Colaton Raleigh.	No
7 Quashbrook Cottage, Colaton Raleigh.	Yes
Stoneyford Cottage, Colaton Raleigh.	Yes
West Town Cottage, Whitestone.	No
Caravan at Govetts.	Yes
1 Lower Shillingford, Exminster.	Yes
2 Lower Shillingford, Exminster.	Yes
3 Lower Shillingford, Exminster.	Yes
4 Lower Shillingford, Exminster.	Yes
1 Church Cottages, Ashcombe.	Yes
2 Church Cottages, Ashcombe.	Yes
Cherry Rose Cottage, Lillybrook, Tedburn St. Mary.	No
Japonica Cottage, Yettington, Bicton.	Yes
Lime Tree Cottage, Yettington, Bicton.	Yes

Closing Orders:

	<u>Occupied</u> <u>31/12/61</u>
4 Milbury Lane, Exminster.	Yes
5 Milbury Lane, Exminster.	Yes
6 Milbury Lane, Exminster.	No
8 Milbury Lane, Exminster.	Yes
6 Bakers Cottage, Lympstone.	No
7 Bakers Cottage, Lympstone.	No
3 Woodbury House, Woodbury.	Yes
Kenbury Cottage, Exminster.	No
Mile End Cottage, Newton Poppleford.	No
15 Dawlish Road, Exminster.	Yes
1 Underhill, Lympstone.	No

It will be noted that of the 43 houses on which a Demolition or Closing Order was made, 25 were still occupied at the end of the year due mainly to the fact that the occupiers have not been allocated a Council house.

The Council made a Demolition Order in respect of a caravan and this is the first occasion that such action has been taken in this district.

The four houses in Milbury Lane, Exminster, on which a Closing Order was made, are in the process of being made fit.

During the year 103 houses have been made fit, of this number 28 were on the list of unfit houses and 70 obtained assistance by means of a Standard or Discretionary Grant.

In November, the Housing Act of 1961 came into force and the most interesting new provision is that it gives power to local authorities to deal with houses in multiple occupation. Briefly these are as follows:-

1. To apply a code of management to individual houses in which a proper standard of management has not been observed.
2. Stronger powers to require the provision of additional facilities and amenities essential to decent living conditions.
3. To enable local authorities to carry out work in default and to recover the cost.
4. To make a direction limiting the number of persons who may live in a house which is in multiple occupation.

The number of houses in multiple occupation in this district is small and would not exceed 20. So far they have not presented any difficulties but the position will be kept under observation.

8. CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received towards the end of the year but was not granted until 1962.

9. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of applications received surprisingly shows a decrease from 146 last year to 118 this year. Since 1953 when the first application was received 655 grants have been approved, made up of 451 Discretionary Grants and 204 Standard Grants. This is over 6% of the total houses in the district and if the houses built since the war are excluded (as a general rule they are not eligible) the percentage is about 9%. When discussing this matter with colleagues this percentage compares favourably with that in other districts.

Standard Grants

Number of applications received	65
Number of applications approved	61
Number of applications refused	1
Number of applications withdrawn	3
Number completed during the year	50
Total cost of schemes completed during the year	£13,496. 18. 9.
Total amount paid in Grants for the above ..	£5,377. 7. -.

One Standard Grant was refused as the owner had commenced the work before the application was made. One of the applications withdrawn was transferred to Discretionary Grant.

Discretionary Grants

Number of applications received	53
Number of applications approved	50
Number of applications refused	3
Total estimated expenditure on above applications	£42,173. 7. 9.
Total expenditure on improvements	£29,196. 16. 9.
Total amount granted	£14,316. - . -.
Number of schemes completed during the year	37
Amount paid in grants for the above schemes	£10,955. - . -.

The three Discretionary Grants were refused as the premises were not eligible for a grant. One was converted from a store to a bungalow after 1946. Another would not comply with the necessary conditions and in the third case the work proposed was not grantable.

The whole of the building inspection of houses where a grant is given is supervised by this department, thus obviating two departments visiting the same property. The following table shows the number of visits made for building inspection purposes to these houses since March, when the new Surveyor's Department was set up.

Foundations	35
Drainage	119
Completions	79

As mentioned last year a number of people are prevented from applying as no sewerage schemes are available in many villages. When the Otter Valley Sewerage Scheme is completed it will encourage people in that area to apply and a number of tentative enquiries have already been made.

In November the Housing Act of 1961 came into force and now requires that for a Standard Grant the water closet shall be in, or accessible from within the dwelling, if it is reasonably practicable to do so. This is a much needed amendment as previously if the water closet was contiguous to the dwelling an indoor one could not be allowed.

The same Act allows an owner where improvements have been carried out to increase the rent by $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ instead of 8% per annum of the amount expended on the improvement by the landlord.

In some quarters it is felt that sufficient use has not been made of improvement grants by landlords to improve rented property and that greater use has been made of them by the owner/occupier. However, of the 110 applications approved during the year 66 were to landlords and 44 to owner/occupiers. Perhaps the increase in rent now allowed will encourage even more owners to improve rented houses.

10. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 - 61

Under this Act minor repairs to houses are dealt with, as well as unsatisfactory drainage, water supply and offensive accumulations, and the following table shows the work under this heading:-

Houses inspected	97
Re-inspections	163
No. of complaints made	71
Informal notices served	72
Informal notices complied with	39
Statutory notices served	5
Statutory notices complied with	9
Verminous premises inspected	6
Disinfestations	6

Of the 72 notices served 31 required repairs to houses, 27 to remedy defective drainage, 5 to provide satisfactory water supplies and 9 for offensive accumulations.

A new Public Health Act came into force in October and amended certain provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and gave additional powers to all local authorities, which had previously been enjoyed by a few under Private Acts.

Under this new Act the owner or occupier can be requested to clear a choked drain within 48 hours and if not carried out within that time, the local authority can do the work and claim the cost. If less than £2 the local authority may, if they think fit, remit the cost.

Also, after giving seven days notice, the local authority can repair any defective drain or private sewer, provided the cost does not exceed £50. These provisions will enable urgent chokages and repairs to be carried out without undue delay.

This Act also allows for much speedier action in dealing with premises which are in such a defective state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance and for which there would be unreasonable delay in carrying out the procedure under the Public Health Act, 1936. This will enable local authorities to deal with urgent repairs, such as leaking roofs, broken floorboards etc. by a notice stating that they intend to carry out the work after 9 days if the owner has not served a counter notice within 7 days. If the local authority do the work in default of the owner they claim the cost from him.

Byelaws can now be made for securing the cleanliness of hairdressers' and barbers' shops, also the instruments and equipment used as well as of the persons working in such premises and their clothing.

Byelaws may also be made for controlling pleasure fairs, circuses, skating rinks and include measures to prevent nuisances and the preservation of sanitary conditions.

A local authority can now require a householder to spend up to £60 instead of £20, towards the cost of providing a water supply to a house. This is a much needed amendment as in the past we have been unable, in some cases, to force the provision of a satisfactory water supply as the cost would have been more than £20, which is inadequate in many cases to connect to a mains water supply.

11. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

(a) Caravans

During the year 36 new applications were received for Site Licences and were dealt with as shown in the following table.

Number of applications received	36
Number of site licences granted	19
Number of site licences refused	10
Number pending at the end of the year	6
Number withdrawn	1

The total number of Site Licences in force at the end of the year was 92.

A great deal of discussion has taken place with the various occupiers of sites regarding the conditions attached to the site licences, in order that they may adjust their sites to the new requirements. Several sites have commenced work but on the whole the year has been one of consultation to iron out difficulties, more than actual building progress. The total number of visits to caravans was 282.

Many caravans in the district are exempt from a site licence as they are situated within the curtilage of the dwelling and their use is incidental to the enjoyment of the house.

Certificates of Exemption have been granted to seven sites by exempted organisations approved by the Minister. These sites are restricted to not more than five caravans at any one time. I am not at all happy regarding these exemptions; no prior consultation takes place with the local authority and as far as I can gather the sites are not even inspected by the exempting organisation to ascertain what facilities exist on the sites.

In two cases the occupiers of the site did not apply for exemption and the first they knew about the matter was when a caravaner asked to park his caravan and showed them their name in a booklet. Apparently someone had stayed at both sites and recommended them to the organisation concerned. Exemption has also been granted to two large residential licensed sites but no indication was given as to the part of the site exempted and I can see no point in these sites having this exemption, except that it allows them five extra caravans in addition to those approved by the Council. On two other sites no caravans have been noticed and another contains a residential caravan. Apart from the two licensed sites and one other which only takes one caravan, the sites do not comply with the model conditions issued by the Minister.

A special report was made to the Planning Committee on these exempted sites and I feel that before exemptions are granted the organisation concerned should consult the local authority, in order to ensure that minimum facilities are available and specify an area to which the exemption applies.

From June to September daily visits were made to an unlicensed site used for holiday caravans. The occupier had his appeal to the Minister dismissed in 1960 and subsequent applications refused, but he still persisted in using the site. In October the Council authorised proceedings to be taken against the occupier but the case had not been heard at the end of the year.

The tenants of one large residential caravan site complained to the Council regarding the condition of the roads, drainage and amenities provided.

The Council agreed to take proceedings against the site occupier if the conditions attached to his site licence were not complied with in six months, but the matter had not been finalised at the end of the year, although little progress has been made. This same site operator appealed to the Magistrates' Court against the conditions attached to his licence regarding car parking facilities, but agreement was reached before the hearing. The same operator appealed to the Minister against the Council's refusal to give permanent approval but the appeal was dismissed and approval given until 19th February, 1975, and for the holiday part of the site to be used for residential purposes.

(b) Tents

In March the Council approved new conditions to apply to licences for tents issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Only one application was approved and that was for 100 tents, making two licensed sites in the district. This site did not comply with the conditions, but a scheme was prepared towards the end of the year to carry out the necessary work and should considerably improve the inadequate facilities provided.

The Council refused one application for a site licence to use land as a site for tents. In June, however, this applicant commenced using the land and daily observations were made until the end of September. During this period as many as 18 tents per day were noticed on the site. In October the Council authorised proceedings to be taken, but the case had not been heard at the end of the year.

12. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, LITTER COLLECTION AND STREET SWEEPING

A. Refuse Collection

The present day trend is for refuse generally to become more bulky and less heavy, this is due in the main to more packaging of goods especially foodstuffs, the reduction of ash and cinder content caused by the advent of other methods of heating, i.e. oil, electricity and gas, and to the introduction of efficient stoves and smokeless fuels.

Although this has been partially overcome by the introduction of new types of refuse collection vehicles, containing compacting or compressing apparatus, the complete answer is larger vehicles.

These larger vehicles can also cause a problem in an area such as this, where many narrow winding lanes with overhanging trees would restrict their use to the larger villages.

For many years I have urged that the fleet of vehicles should be such that one vehicle was surplus to normal requirements, i.e. in reserve, especially in view of the general overall age of the present fleet and the consequent frequency of breakdowns and replacement of parts. During the year, due to the purchase of a second-hand ex-demonstration vehicle this was achieved and our oldest vehicle (put on the road in March 1947) was made a reserve vehicle. However, it has frequently been brought into use and this frequency will tend to increase so that the vehicle is likely to become unroadworthy within a short time.

The number of houses which require a refuse collection naturally increases each year due to new houses being erected, but another factor is that many isolated farms and cottages demand a collection as being a tangible return for rates paid.

It can be calculated that some 300 or more houses are erected each year, so that some 4,500 houses have been added in the past 15 years since the comprehensive scheme of refuse was inaugurated and in that time the labour force employed has only increased by 2 men, therefore,

it can be seen that there is no surplus labour employed.

B. LITTER COLLECTION

The general scheme of placing litter receptacles in laybys in villages and on commons etc. appears to function successfully and we get very few complaints.

Occasionally requests are made for litter baskets or bins to be placed in additional places and we are generally able to oblige.

The only difficulty is that during the summer season, especially on the trunk roads, whilst every endeavour is made to empty the bins at least twice each week, there are places where our vehicles only pass once during the week and it would entail expenses out of all proportion to the benefit derived to send a large vehicle many miles to cover the necessary ground e.g. Whimble, Tedburn St. Mary and the Torquay and Plymouth Roads past Kennford.

C. DISPOSAL

The means of disposal continues to be by tipping and reclaiming of land for agricultural use and 7 tips were in use at some time during the year.

Three of these tips were practically completed at the end of the year and of the remaining 4 - it is only possible to use 2 during the winter and one is only used during the summer - leaving only the new tip, the old railway cutting at Ide Lane, Alphington, as the all year round tip and therefore this is the principal tip.

As sites are completed it is being found increasingly difficult to obtain other suitable sites and more and more refuse will have to be transported from the perimeter of the district to Alphington.

This principal tip was estimated to last for about 8 years, but in view of the increasing volume of refuse this is likely to prove a maximum figure and a revised estimate is 5 or 6 years. Therefore, before many years have passed the Council will have to look into other methods of disposal, either independently or perhaps in conjunction with neighbouring authorities.

D. ROAD SWEEPING

In May of the year under review, a scheme for keeping the roads swept in some of the larger villages was commenced and 4 men were engaged full-time as follows:-

1. Topsham (also once per month Clyst St. Mary village)
2. Pinhoe
3. Alphington and Exminster
4. Lympstone and Woodbury

All the principal roads are swept weekly and the minor roads according to use, either fortnightly or monthly, in the parishes of Pinhoe and Topsham.

In the other four parishes, principal roads are swept fortnightly with estate roads and minor roads monthly.

This scheme appears to be meeting with general approval by the residents of these particular parishes, many of whom have expressed their appreciation.

E. SALVAGE

The following table compares the amount of materials collected in 1960 and 1961 with the respective receipts.

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs	£.	s.	d.
Newspapers and Magazines & Cardboard	44	11	0	14	179.	3.	3.
Rags and light metals	2	12	3	7	78.	13.	9.
TOTAL 1961	47	3	3	21	257.	17.	-.
Comparative Total 1960	119	19	3	24	693.	13.	2.

13. PLANS AND PLANNING

On 1st March the responsibility for this work was transferred to the new Surveyor's Department, set up in the previous October.

During the two months 196 plans were received and during the same period the following number of inspections were carried out.

Foundations	50
Drainage	58
Work in progress ..	251
Completions	75

As is mentioned in the section dealing with Improvement Grants, this department continues to be responsible for the building inspection where such grants have been given.

14. DRAINAGE

The long awaited sewerage scheme for the Otter Valley to serve the parishes of East Budleigh, Otterton, Colaton Raleigh and Harpford, commenced during the year and we look forward to its completion some time in 1963. This will enable proper drainage to be provided to many houses and present an opportunity of modernisation.

A number of complaints have been received of the unsatisfactory drainage arrangements due to lack of a sewer in Woodbury Salterton, Ebford and Tedburn St. Mary and, in my opinion, the provision of a sewerage scheme for these places is long overdue.

The following table shows the work carried out during the year.

Existing Properties

Premises connected to sewer	10
Premises drained and septic tanks provided	35

Pail closets converted to water closets	40
Baths provided	74
Sinks provided	32
Miscellaneous drainage works	27
Number of visits - drainage	328
No. of notices served to remedy unsatisfactory drainage.. .. .	27

15. WATER SUPPLIES

The result of all the samples taken for bacteriological analysis during 1961 are tabulated below:-

Class	Bore	River	Land Spring	Private well Supplies	Mains	
					North Devon Water Board	Public Health Department
Very satisfactory	3	-	7	2	7	6
Satisfactory	-	-	7	10	19	7
Doubtful	-	-	2	3	-	1
Unsatisfactory	-	-	2	14	-	6
TOTAL	3	-	18	29	26	20

The owner and occupier are notified in all cases where the samples are unsatisfactory. A number of the unsatisfactory samples were repeat ones.

16. DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The Council continued to administer this Order by delegation from the Devon County Council. Six new licences were issued during the year, and the number of licences in force at the end of 1961 were 22.

17. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No complaints were made to the department during the year of any smoke nuisance.

18. AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

At the request of the Minister, a survey was commenced of agricultural holdings during the year and before the survey was commenced, a letter was sent to the occupier of all such holdings, as well as to the large estate owners, pointing out the requirements of the Act.

The following table shows the result of the survey so far.

Number of holdings inspected	79
Number satisfactory	72
Number unsatisfactory	7
Number of notices served	6

It is interesting to note that of the 79 farms inspected, 28 employed no labour other than that of their own family, and I would like to express my appreciation of the co-operation received from the various farmers in carrying out this survey.

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of visits to cases of infectious diseases and food poisoning show a great increase due to a number of outbreaks of food poisoning:-

Enquiries made in connection with cases of infectious diseases and suspected food poisoning etc	113
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	112
Visits re disinfections	1
Number of houses fumigated	6

The following are particulars of three of these cases.

At the beginning of October a case of food poisoning was reported in a certain parish and following the collection of faeces specimens from the family, a case of *Salmonella Enteritidis* var jena was confirmed.

During the following month, 6 more cases of food poisoning were actually notified by medical practitioners and 7 positive cases of *Salmonella Enteritidis* were confirmed by faeces examined.

During investigation by the Public Health Inspector for the district, it became known that a large number of children had been absent from school due to stomach complaints. A visit was, therefore, made to the school and the headmaster interviewed. The headmaster proved extremely co-operative and supplied a list of 33 names of pupils who had been affected in this way.

These cases were investigated and from the evidence obtained, two common factors emerged, a local butcher and a local dairyman.

As a result of further investigations, the wife of the local butcher was found to be a positive *Salmonella Enteritidis* and was suspended from work in the butcher's shop by the Medical Officer of Health.

In the case of the dairyman, the herd of cows was found to be infected with the same organism of the same phage type, and arrangements were then made for all the milk to be pasteurised. The Veterinary Investigation Centre at Starcross was consulted in relation to the cows and subsequently carried out exhaustive tests and advised the dairyman on the necessary treatment. Several milk samples were submitted for examination but no positive results were obtained.

Following these precautions, no further cases were discovered and the outbreak had, without doubt, been arrested.

Tests were also made of the water supply and swabs taken from the sewer, both of which proved negative. Swabs were also taken from dykes on the marsh where the herd in question had been grazing and positive results were obtained. This matter remains under the control of the Veterinary Investigation Centre. The wife of the butcher concerned received medical treatment and was cleared of infection.

A case of Typhoid occurred in an adjoining district and we were requested to investigate as the patient worked and had his mid-day meal in this district. A thorough investigation of the staff canteen was made and the 15 people involved were requested to submit faecal samples, as a result one case of salmonella Nyborg was discovered and the person concerned ceased to have any connection with the canteen.

An outbreak of sonne dysentery in two adjoining villages affected twenty families and persisted from January until June. This entailed many visits and enquiries.

20. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A full time rodent operator is employed and his duties include the destruction of all types of pests.

The number of complaints received shows a slight increase over last year.

The sewers in 31 parishes were baited for the presence of rats and only 13 complete and 11 part takes were found.

In addition to the poisoning of rats and mice, the rodent operator regularly treats all the refuse tips for the destruction of flies.

Various types of infestation are treated on request and a charge is made for this service. During the year 10 houses were treated for flies, 17 for hornets, 32 for wasps, 1 for bees and 2 premises for cockroaches.

The following is a copy of the return which is annually submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, showing work carried out in the destruction of rats and mice. (See overleaf).

	Type of Property				Agricultural
	Local Auth- ority 1	Dwell- ing Houses (incl. Council Houses) 2	All other (including business premises) 3	Total of Col.1, 2 and 3. 4	
1. No. of properties in District	36	9,301	612	9,949	803
2. Total no. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
Notification	-	107	36	143	16
No. of such properties infested by:-					
(a) Common rat - minor	-	91	25	116	16
(b) House mouse - minor	-	10	11	21	-
3. Total no. of properties inspected in course of survey under the Act	36	911	60	1,007	2
No. of such properties infested by:-					
(a) Common rat - major	2	-	-	2	-
" " - minor	7	453	50	510	2
(b) House mouse - minor	3	12	2	17	-
4. Total no. of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	-	-	-
5. Total inspections - including re-inspections	248	2,273	235	2,756	50
6. No. of infested properties (in Sections 2, 3 & 4) treated by the L.A.	12	566	88	666	18
7. Total treatments carried out - including re-treatments	196	620	101	917	18
8. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out			103		

21. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1959

The following are the particulars which the Ministry of Labour require to be included in annual reports showing the work carried out during the year.

(a) Inspections for purposes of provision as to health:-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	-	5	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	14	14	1	-

(b) Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instit- uted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate venti- lation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	5	-	-	-

Nature of Work (1)	No. of out workers in August list required 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made whole or partially of paper	2	-	-	-	-	-
Field coils	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wearing apparel - (a) Making etc	14	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Cleaning & Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	-	-	-	-	-

The following report has been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer, Mr. W. R. Osborne.

1. Number of applications for housing accommodation to date 538

These are from persons residing within the Rural District, although applications are received from persons outside the area of the District who require accommodation within the District.

Of this number most of the applicants are in need of three bedroomed accommodation. There is, however, a large demand for bungalow accommodation by elderly people.

Most of these elderly people are being evicted from old properties, the condition of which has been considered by the Council under the Housing Acts. Whilst in some cases they are reluctant to leave their houses, they are more than pleased with the new accommodation provided by the Council.

37 families are in full occupation at Aldens Road, Alphington. This is an estate provided with one bedroomed bungalows, one bedroomed flats and bedsitting room accommodation. A warden service is available which is working most efficiently. A visiting Committee comprising a member of the Rural District Council and one from the local Parish Council has been appointed and make frequent inspections.

2. The number of families re-housed in existing and new properties from January to December, 1961, was 73.

The number of transfers and exchanges effected locally was 10.

3. The Council have approved a scheme for the modernisation of certain pre-war houses, this includes hot-water systems, baths etc.

4. A scheme providing for 2 bungalows and 4 houses has recently been completed at Dunchideock, the tenancies of which will commence in the near future. Also 4 bungalows at Aylesbeare are almost complete. 10 houses are under construction at Topsham and tenders are about to be invited for dwellings at Ide and Alphington.

